

H. R. 4294  
H. R. 6364  
[Roncallo]

Purpose: To provide that members of the Armed Forces and Government civilian employees who were prisoners of war for any period during the Vietnam war may receive double credit for such period for retirement purposes.

Comment:

H. R. 4294 amended the CIA retirement Act and the Civil Service and Foreign Service Retirement System to provide double retirement benefits for civilian Government employees who were prisoners during the Vietnam war.

H. R. 6364 provided the same additional retirement benefits but amended only the CIA Retirement Act and not the Civil Service System.

Position:

Chairman Hebert, by letter to the Director dated 20 February and 3 April, requested comments concerning H. R. 4294 and H. R. 6364 respectively. Agency comments were coordinated with OGC, DDO, DDM&S, and D/Pers. The Agency favored H. R. 4294 over H. R. 6364 since the former covered employees under any retirement system in Government. The reply also recommended that the bills be extended to cover former civilian employees as is provided for separated military members. The Agency reply was sent to OMB for clearance on 25 April.

Jim Hyde, of OMB, on July 24, submitted the DOD comments on H. R. 6364 and requested that CIA reconsider its position in line of the Defense report. DOD took a position against H. R. 6364. DOD did not consider it proper to provide special benefits only to those persons who automatically retired from the armed services. The legislation, they felt did not benefit those persons who choose not to remain in service as well as those who have been severely wounded but were not captured.

In view of the comments by OMB, the CIA reply was revised to avoid any misunderstanding. The Agency took no position on the bill. The revised reply was cleared by OMB and was forwarded to the House Armed Services Committee on 23 November 1973.

Status:

H. R. 4294 was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services on February 8, and H. R. 6364 was submitted to that Committee on 29 March. Agency reply sent to Chairman Hebert on 23 November.